

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2202

June 20, 2019

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* BY APPOINTMENT
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Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite
Chief of Engineers and Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Lieutenant General Semonite:

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that commercial and recreational ports and harbors in the Great Lakes are adequately maintained. While we support the efforts of the United States Army Corps (USACE) to address the overall dredging backlog, we write to share our concern with the lack of operation and maintenance funds prioritized for Holland Harbor in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

Located on the east shore of Lake Michigan, Holland Harbor is a deep draft commercial harbor and major regional receiving port on the Great Lakes. The harbor generates nearly \$68 million annually in business revenue while supporting over 400 direct, indirect, and induced jobs. These jobs produce over \$19 million annually in personal income in transportation and commodity related industries.

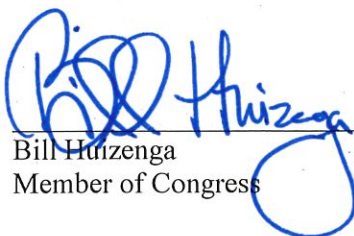
In addition to the economic impact of the harbor, it also serves as a station for the United States Coast Guard and the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office marine division. These brave men and women work tirelessly to safely protect the shores of Lake Michigan.

Holland Harbor is a vital part of West Michigan's economy and is truly the lifeblood of our community. It is critically important that the necessary funds are prioritized so that Holland Harbor can maintain its designed depth and width.

We urge the USACE to provide necessary funding to ensure that Holland Harbor continues to be an engine of economic growth and a source of recreation for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress


Fred Upton
Member of Congress